LANDS AND FORESTS
TECHNICAL NOTE

CHIGNECTO BOWHUNT 1987

Art Patton

During the 32 day deer season in 1987, 323 bowhunters entered the Chignecto Management Unit to hunt.

Bowhunters entered an average of 5.2 days each for a total of 1690 hunter-days.

During that season bowhunters harvested 42 deer for a hunter success rate of 13% and an average 40.2 hunter days per kill.

Table 1 gives sex, age, weight and antler development data for the registered deer. Table 2 compares hunting effort and deer sightings by week of the season, and Table 4 indicates kills per week.

Table 3 compares wildlife sightings in years from 1969 when bowhunting started at Chignecto. This table suggests population trends in the area for deer, moose, grouse, snowshoe hare, bobcat and coyote.

Table 5 compares hunter participation in this popular hunt since its beginning in 1969.

Chignecto Management Unit provides productive opportunity for bowhunters in the province and even under these well above average conditions, only 12% of bowhunters are successful. As well, on the average a bowhunter can expect to hunt 45 days per kill. These facts suggest that even very long bow seasons with a separate bag limit would have no effect on deer populations across the province.

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Table 1. Deer kill sex, age, weight and antler development. Chignecto bowhunt 1987.

Kill Date	Sex	Age	Wt. (Kg)	Beam	Points
10/30/87	2	0.5	24.9		
10/31/87	1	1.5	47.6	15.0	2
11/31/87	1	0.5	22.7		
11/02/87	2	4.5	46.7		
11/02/87	1	4.5	62.1	20.0	2
11/03/87	2	5.5	56.7		
11/03/87	1	1.5	61.2	17.0	3
11/04/87	2	2.5	46.3		
11/04/87	2	4.5	48.5		
11/04/87	1	3.5	77.1	31.0	8
11/04/87	1	1.5	54.4		
11/05/87	1	2.5	69.9	15.0	4
11/06/87	2	6.5	52.2		
11/06/87	2	3.5	42.6		
11/06/87	1	3.5	74.2	31.0	8
11/06/87	2	0.5	22.7		
11/07/87	1	3.5	91.7	42.0	12
11/07/87	1	0.5	28.6		
11/09/87	2	3.5	39.9		
11/10/87	2	0.5	29.5		
11/11/87	2	2.5	45.4		
11/12/87	1	0.5	29.0		
11/12/87	1	2.5	63.5	30.0	8
11/13/87	2	4.5	49.9		
11/13/87	1	0.5	28.6		
11/13/87	2	2.5	52.2		
11/13/87	2	2.5	45.4		
11/14/87	1	0.5	27.2		
11/14/87	1	1.5	43.1		
11/14/87	1	0.5	20.4		
11/14/87	1	2.5	68.9		
11/14/87	1	2.5	71.70	21.0	7
11/14/87	2	0.5	27.2		
11/14/87	2	7.5	50.3		
11/14/87	2	2.5	52.2		
11/19/87	2	8.5	61.70		
11/20/87	1	4.5	80.3	30.0	10
11/21/87	1	1.5	49.9		2
11/23/87	2	2.5	44.0		
11/27/87	1	1.5	45.4		
11/28/87	2	6.5	51.7		
12/04/87	2	2.5	54.4		

SEX 1 = Male 2 = Female

Table 2. Deer sightings by week of the season. Chignecto bowhunt 1987.

Resident	Status	Hunters	Days	Buck Sight.	Doe Sight.	Unk. Sight.	Total Sight.
Resident	OFS*	75	119	39	168	62	269
Non-Res.	OFS	13	23	7	39	22	68
Total	OFS	88	142	46	207	84	337
Sightings/Day	OFS			0.32	1.46	0.59	2.37
Resident	Wk1	160	425	164	515	149	828
Non-Res.	Wk1	18	83	30	145	36	211
Total	Wk1	178	508	194	660	185	1,093
Sightings/Day	Wk1			0.38	1.30	0.36	2.15
Resident	Wk2	166	538	278	593	251	1,122
Non-Res.	Wk2	6	11	1	6	4	11
Total	Wk2	172	549	279	599	255	1,133
Sightings/Day	Wk2			0.51	1.09	0.46	2.06
Resident	Wk3	102	249	127	231	124	482
Non-Res.	Wk3	3	4	2	14	2	18
Total	Wk3	105	253	129	245	126	500
Sightings/Day	Wk3			0.51	0.97	0.50	1.98
Resident	Wk4	85	135	51	111	94	256
Non-Res.	Wk4	5	12	12	14	17	43
Total	Wk4	90	147	63	125	111	299
Sightings/Day	Wk4			0.43	0.85	0.76	2.03
Resident	Wk5	47	88	31	126	97	254
Non-Res.	Wk5	2	3	0	3	2	5
Total	Wk5	49	91	31	129	99	259
Sightings/Day	Wk5			0.34	1.42	1.09	2.85
Resident	Season	300	1,554	690	1,744	777	3,211
Non-Res.	Season	23	136	52	221	83	356
Total	Season	682	1,690	742	1,965	860	3,621
Sightings/Day	Season			0.44	1.16	0.51	2.14
Actual Hunters		323					

* *OFS – Opening Friday & Saturday*

Table 3. Wildlife sightings and sightings/hunter day reported. Chignecto bowhunt 1969 - 1987.

Year	Deer Total	Deer/ H.D.	Moose Total	Moose/ H.D.	Ruffed Grouse Total	Ruffed Grouse/ H.D.	Hare Total	Hare/ H.D.	Bobcat Total	Bobcat/ H.D.	Coyote Total	Coyote/ H.D.
1969	171	2.2	24	0.31							0	–
1970	263	1.8	13	0.09							0	–
1971	338	1.2	34	0.12							0	–
1972	423	2.0	11	0.05			Not Recorded				0	–
1973	517	2.1	5	0.02							0	–
1974	598	2.0	42	0.14							0	–
1975	562	1.7	64	0.19	431	1.3	126	0.4	0	0.0	0	–
1976	885	2.8	63	0.20	938	3.0	267	0.9	7	0.02	0	–
1977	1125	2.3	51	0.10	1060	2.0	924	1.8	10	0.02	0	–
1978	1182	2.2	23	0.04	433	0.8	600	1.1	8	0.015	0	–
1979	2023	2.7	71	0.10	461	0.6	144	0.2	6	0.008	0	–
1980	1586	2.3	34	0.05	229	0.3	44	0.1	3	0.004	0	–
1981	1992	2.3	64	0.07	795	0.9	157	0.2	9	0.01	0	–
1982	1519	1.6	45	0.05	1253	1.3	267	0.3	3	0.003	2	0.002
1983	3345	3.6	67	0.07	1404	1.5	362	0.4	6	0.006	17	0.018
1984	3590	2.8	116	0.12	1899	1.5	849	0.7	11	0.008	33	0.026
1985	5933	3.4	44	0.03	1837	1.1	1134	0.7	13	0.007	11	0.006
1986	3877	2.2	67	0.04	429	0.2	741	0.4	10	0.006	13	0.007
1987	3621	2.1	50	0.03	808	0.5	481	0.3	4	0.002	58	0.034

Table 4. Deer kill by week of the season. Chignecto bowhunt 1987.

Resident Status	Hunter Days	Kill Males	Kill Females	Total
OFS*				
Resident	119		1	1
Non-Resident	23	2		2
Total	142	2	1	3
Days/Kill				47
WEEK 1				
Resident	425	6	4	10
Non-Resident	83	2	3	5
Total	508	8	7	15
Days/Kill				34
WEEK 2				
Resident	538	8	9	17
Non-Resident	11	0	0	0
Total	549	8	9	17
Days/Kill				32
WEEK 3				
Resident	249	2	1	3
Non-Resident	4	0	0	0
Total	253	2	1	3
Days/Kill				84
WEEK 4				
Resident	135	1	1	2
Non-Resident	12	0	1	1
Total	147	1	2	3
Days/Kill				49
WEEK 5				
Resident	88	0	1	1
Non-Resident	3	0	0	0
Total	91	0	1	1
Days/Kill				91
SEASON				
Resident	1,554	17	17	34
Non-Resident	136	4	4	8
Total	1,690	21	21	42
Days/Kill				40

* *OFS – Opening Friday & Saturday*

Table 5. Bowhunt participation and deer harvest. Chignecto bowhunt 1969 - 1986.

Year	Legal Days	No. of Bowhunters	Hunter Days	Deer Kill	Ave. Days/ Bowhunter	Hunter Days/ Kill	Kill/ Hunter %
1969	10	31	78	4	2.5	19.5	12.9
1970	10	46	147	4	3.2	36.8	8.7
1971	13	60	277	4	4.6	69.3	6.7
1972	13	44	215	1	4.9	215.0	2.3
1973	13	47	252	4	5.4	63.0	8.5
1974	13	68	305	6	4.5	50.8	8.8
1975	13	69	336	3	4.9	112.0	4.3
1976	13	61	314	5	5.1	62.8	8.2
1977	26	86	500	5	5.8	100.0	5.8
1978	26	96	548	9	5.7	60.9	9.4
1979	41	108	736	10	6.8	73.6	9.3
1980	25	125	677	26	5.4	26.0	20.8
1981	25	156	858	11	5.5	78.0	7.1
1982	26	172	985	16	5.7	61.6	9.3
1983	32	173	935	26	5.4	36.0	15.0
1984	32	225	1276	39	5.7	32.7	17.3
1985	39	302	1729	49	5.7	35.3	16.2
1986	32	330	1757	38	5.3	46.2	11.5
1987	32	323	1690	42	5.2	40.2	13.0
Total	434	2522	13615	302			
Means	22.3	132.7	716.5	15.9	5.4	45.1	12.0